

TUNSTALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report

For the year ending December, 1894.

To the Tunstall Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of laying before you my THIRD ANNUAL REPORT of the public health in your township for the year 1894, and have the satisfaction of being able to record a lower death rate, and an improved condition of the health of the community.

BIRTHS.

The births registered in 1894 numbered 653, giving an annual rate of increase of 40·6 per 1000 living. The male births numbered 323, and the female births 330. The above number is 13 more than that recorded for 1893, and is the highest number of births registered during the last 10 years. In addition, I have to notify the births of 42 still-born children.

DEATHS.

320 deaths from all causes have been registered during the year, and although this number is only one less than that recorded for 1893, it is some satisfaction to be able to state that it is the lowest number recorded for the last five years. The annual rate of mortality calculated from the above total is 19·09 per 1000 of the estimated population. The rates for the preceding four years were as follows:—

1893	...	...	19·9 per 1000
1892	...	...	22·18 „
1891	...	...	22·8 „
1890	...	...	23·6 „

The monthly mortality was very high in January, February and December, chiefly from the incidence of diseases of the respiratory organs, and for which the cold weather is to a great extent responsible. The mortality rate throughout the remaining months was on the whole very satisfactory.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

113 deaths occurred in children under one year, and 40 between one and five years. The infant mortality under one year of age is in the proportion of 173 per 1000 births registered, and is 33 per 1000 less than that recorded for the preceding year.

It is satisfactory to note some improvement here, but still I beg to reiterate the opinions I offered in my last report, that a want of cleanliness in the surroundings of many of the children, and improper feeding are in a great measure responsible for so serious a rate of mortality.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS

are accountable for 72 deaths, occurring chiefly at the extreme ages of life, and as above stated, during the cold months of the year.

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES

have caused 52 deaths. Of these 22 are attributed to Phthisis, being five more than were registered last year. Improvements in the ventilation and heating of the work-rooms, as also in many of the dwellings will be necessary to bring about a diminution in the death rate from this cause.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

have caused 54 deaths. Of these 21 have been caused by Convulsions in young children, and in many cases are the result of improper feeding and careless nursing.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

I am pleased to be able to present a very favorable report under this heading. Only 19 deaths have occurred throughout the year, giving a rate of 1.18 per 1000, as compared with 32 deaths and a rate of 1.8 for the previous year.

One case of Typhus Fever was reported at the beginning of the year, but I was unable to trace its origin, as the premises wherein the patient lived were in a very wholesome condition, and no other cases were reported within the district.

VACCINATION

413 children have been successfully vaccinated during the year, and I have to state that no cases of Small Pox have come to my notice.

REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL AND ASHES.

From a regular inspection I have made of the back yards of the houses throughout the town, I am pleased to report that the Contractor has performed his work very efficiently so far as the actual removal of excreta and ashes is concerned. An objectionable part of his work, however, is that the greater part of the night soil is removed during the day, in contravention of the bye-laws. The Contractor has promised a more careful observance of the bye-laws with respect to this matter for the future.

Wherever practicable, slop closets are being substituted for the old cesspits, and during the year 44 cesspits have been converted into water closets.

BACK ENTRIES.

These are being kept much cleaner than formerly, but the back entries of several streets, notably Parsonage street, Sun street and Ward street are still unpaved. The cleanliness of the houses and comfort of the inhabitants of these streets would be much enhanced by having the entries promptly put in order.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The new scheme contemplated by the Board will in all probability be completed in the course of the present year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shews the cases of Infectious sickness notified during the year:—

Scarlatina	...	...	...	31
Diphtheria	...	...	...	11
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	31
Continued Fever	...	...	...	1
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	22

Only the case of Typhus was removed to the Infectious Hospital, as I still find it difficult to overcome the prejudices of parents with respect to removal of their sick children.

Isolation has been enforced as far as practicable, but cannot be carried out very satisfactorily. Disinfectants have been freely used, and all necessary precautions adopted to prevent spreading of the diseases.

BYE-LAWS.

The following Bye-laws of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, have been adopted by the Board during the year, and are now in force :—

1.—The decent conduct of persons using Sanitary conveniences.

2.—Nuisances in connection with the removal of offensive or noxious matters.

3.—The prevention of danger from Whirligigs and Swings, and from the use of Firearms in Shooting Ranges and Galleries.

4.—The alteration of buildings.

5.—Telegraph and other Wires.

In addition, I beg to submit a table giving a summary of Sanitary work done during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PARTINGTON.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Deaths Registered from all Causes during the Year 1894.

	AGES.											TOTALS
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 to 85	85 and up	
I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE, OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES	4	6	3	2	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	19
II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES	14	6	3	9	6	8	3	2	1	..	..	52
III.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES	10	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	8	10	1	31
IV.—LOCAL DISEASES	50	28	4	5	13	13	22	20	18	5	1	179
V.—DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	5
VI.—DEATHS FROM ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES	32	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	34
TOTALS												320
I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE, OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES.												
1.—Miasmatic Diseases.												
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Whooping Cough	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Diphtheria .. ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Enteric or Typhoid Fever .. ..	..	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
2.—Diarrhœal Diseases.												
Diarrhœa, Dysentery	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
3.—Septic Diseases.												
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.												
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism of the Heart ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	4
Rheumatism .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rickets .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	3
Tabes Mesenterica	11	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Tubercular Meningitis, Hydrocephalus ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Phthisis .. ..	..	..	2	7	6	4	2	1	..	..	..	22
Other forms of Tuberculosis, Scrofula ..	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
III.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.												
Premature Birth	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Atelectasis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Old Age .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	8	10	1	21
IV.—LOCAL DISEASES.												
1.—Diseases of Nervous System.												
Inflammation of Brain or Membranes ..	3	4	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Apoplexy, Softening of Brain, Hemiplegia, } Brain Paralysis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	3	..	..	12
Epilepsy .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3
Convulsions	19	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Laryngismus Stridulus (Spasm of Glottis) ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Disease of Spinal Cord, Paraplegia, Paralysis } Agitans .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	4
Other Diseases of Nervous System .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	3

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Deaths Registered during the Year.—(Continued).

	AGES.											TOTALS
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 to 85	85 and up	
2.—Diseases of Circulatory System.												
Pericarditis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Acute Endocarditis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Valvular Diseases of Heart .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	2	2	..	..	8
Other Diseases of Heart	3	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	1	..	..	8
3.—Diseases of Respiratory System.												
Laryngitis .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Croup .. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bronchitis	13	5	1	1	..	3	4	5	9	3	1	45
Pneumonia	2	5	1	..	2	3	3	2	..	..	..	18
Other Diseases of Respiratory System..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3
4.—Diseases of Digestive System.												
Dentition	6	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Diseases of Stomach .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Enteritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Obstructive Diseases of Intestine .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Peritonitis .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Jaundice and other Diseases of Liver ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Other Diseases of Digestive System ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
5.—Diseases of Urinary System.												
Nephritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bright's Disease, Albuminuria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
6.—Diseases of Reproductive System.												
<i>Of Parturition.</i>												
Puerperal Convulsions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other Accidents of Child Birth .. .. .	..	..	..	4	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	8
7.—Diseases of Integumentary System.												
Other Diseases of Integumentary System ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
V.—DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE.												
1.—Accident or Negligence.												
Drowning .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Suffocation	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Otherwise .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
2.—Homicide.												
Murder	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
VI.—DEATHS FROM ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES.												
Debility, Atrophy, Inanition	32	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Mortification.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

SUMMARY.

	No. of Deaths
I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE, OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES.	
1. Miasmatic Diseases ...	12
2. Diarrhœal „ ...	3
3. Septic „ ...	4
II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES ...	52
III.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES ...	31
IV.—LOCAL DISEASES.	
1. Diseases of Nervous System ...	54
2. Diseases of Circulatory System ...	18
3. Diseases of Respiratory System ...	72
4. Diseases of Digestive System ...	22
5. Diseases of Urinary System ...	2
6. Diseases of Reproductive System (Parturition) ...	10
7. Diseases of Integumentary System ...	1
V.—VIOLENCE.	
1. Accident or Negligence ...	4
2. Homicide ...	1
VI.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES...	34
Total ...	<u>320</u>

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

Done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1894 in the Urban Sanitary District of Tunstall.

				Inspection and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Author- ity.	Nuis- ances Abated after Notice.		
Dwelling- houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	...	...	360	21	360
		Structural Defects	..	...	7	7	7
		Overcrowding	...	...	4	...	4
		Unfit for Habitation	...	...	8	2	1
	Lodging-houses		...	...	...	...	...
	Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds		...	about	600	...	...
	Bakehouses		...	...	25	...	...
	Slaughter-houses		...	about	650	...	...
	Canal Boats Inspected		...	...	86	...	...
	Ashpits and Privies Repaired		..	...	97	...	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure Removed		...	...	3	...	..
Water Closets re-constructed from Privies		...	...	42	...	...
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps...	...	...	120	...	...
		No Disconnection	...	...	49	...	...
		Other Faults	...	...	...	...	...
	Water Supply		...	...	...	...	...
	Pigsties		...	...	60	...	...
	Animals improperly kept...		...	...	4	3	3
	Offensive Trades		...	...	...	...	...
	Smoke Nuisances		...	...	6	...	...
Other Nuisances		...	...	21	...	...
TOTALS				2141	33	375

Seizures of Unwholesome Food	Nos.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	Nothing in this department
,, ,, Found Adulterated	...	...	...	...
,, of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...
,, ,, Condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	...

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	...	...	...	none
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	,,
Schools ditto ditto	...	...	...	,,
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	,,
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...	...	,,
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things	...	...	...	,,
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...	...	,,

Disinfectants have been freely used in Liquid, Powder and Soap.

These are well attended to with everything that I have at my disposal, under the directions of the Medical Officer of Health.

(Signed), S. MOSS, Inspector

Date, 15th Jan., 1895.